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A TREE GUESSING CONTEST

By J. S. HOLMES

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One of the most important and often one of the most difficult parts of State forestry work is interesting the children of the schools in the trees and forests which they see around them; for only by laying such foundations can a permanent State forest policy be secured.

At the recent annual meeting of the North Carolina Forestry Association in Wilmington, the most successful forestry lesson for children probably ever held in this state was given. Six hundred children gathered in the Hemenway School Auditorium to take part in a guessing contest inaugurated by the Association, but worked up by the principal and teachers of the city schools.

The children were supplied with a list of sixteen common North Carolina trees, a blank sheet of paper ruled and numbered one to sixteen with lines at the bottom for the name, grade and school of the child.

Lantern slides, illustrating the form and characteristics of each tree were shown. These were supplemented by information concerning the distribution, habits and uses of the different trees given by the State Forester. After each tree had been shown, the lights were turned on for a moment, so that the children could write down the name of the tree on their paper. After all the trees had been shown, two motion picture reels, loaned by the Forest Service, the one showing forest fires and the other lumbering lodgepole pine, were shown, while a number of the teachers went over and marked the papers.

Four children guessed all sixteen trees correctly. These had to draw for the first four prizes, which were as follows: first, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and \$1.00 in cash; second, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and 50 cents in cash; third, Coker & Totten's "Trees of North Carolina," and fourth, 75 cents in cash. Four children got fifteen trees right and each got 50 cents in cash. The ninth prize was also 50 cents, whilst the tenth to 16th were 25 cents in cash each. Six children got fourteen right, and two got thirteen right, so that there was no need for deciding priority by lot. The prizes were offered by the Association.

The entertainment which included the reading and endorsement of the resolutions proposed by the Association at its afternoon meeting lasted for more than two hours, yet the interest of the children was sustained at the highest pitch throughout. The Wilmington paper said: "It was hard for them to keep quiet, so

enthusiastic were they over the contest that gave so much interest to the event." The principal has since written as follows: "I want to thank you for the very delightful evening which you gave the children on the occasion of the meeting here last Friday evening. The children who won the prizes are real heroes in town. Please send me the correct list of trees as you showed them on the screen, as I want to place the correct list in every school. Everybody is talking trees now.

"We all enjoyed greatly your visit and I want you to feel that you have made friends for forest conservation of hundreds of children here in the city."

Such a success could not possibly have been achieved without the hearty co-operation of the school authorities. The teachers in the various schools kept the matter before the children for a week or two before the contests, by drawing the different parts of the various trees in the list on the black board and by telling the children about the trees. Every book about trees in the library had been called for by the children, and nothing had been neglected which would add to the success of the occasion. Contests along this or similar lines might be arranged in other schools where such hearty co-operation could be secured.

THE ASSOCIATION OF MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

At the recent meeting of the Teachers' Assembly at Charlotte a Modern Language Association was organized by the modern language teachers present. A constitution was adopted and officers for the following year were elected.

It was decided that the Association meet annually, in connection with the Teachers' Assembly. Dues for a year's membership were fixed at fifty cents; dues including a year's subscription to the *Modern Language Journal* are one dollar and seventy-five cents (\$1.75). This journal is published by the federations of modern language associations in the East, the Central West, and the South and deals wholly with the problems of modern language teaching. It is exceedingly helpful, and ought to be in the hands of every modern language teacher in the state. The regular subscription price is \$1.50 per year; to get it at the reduced rate of \$1.25 subscription must be sent through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, Miss Annie Beam, Shelby, N. C. Sample copies of the *Journal* may be procured from C. H. Handschin, Oxford, Ohio.

We hope to make this association a clearing-house for teachers in both high schools and colleges. We hope to raise the standard of modern language teach-